

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 362

By Cooper

A RESOLUTION to honor Yvonne B. Acey upon her career and her founding of the Africa In April Cultural Awareness Festival, Inc.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should recognize those citizens who have devoted their careers to improving the quality of life for African Americans and race relations among all people; and

WHEREAS, one such exemplary public servant is Yvonne B. Acey, a former Northside High School English instructor with Memphis City Schools and immediate past president of the Memphis Education Association; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Acey has served her profession and her community as president of Women Education, Inc., former president and member of The National Sorority of Phi Delta Kappa, Inc., Beta Eta Chapter, first vice president of Memphis Kwanzaa International, a board member of The National Coalition of 100 Black Women, Inc., Memphis Education Association's M-PACE political action chair, and a member of the Shelby County Election Commission, the President Barack Obama International World Leadership Council, and the National Council of Negro Women, Shelby County Section; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Acey co-founded and organized the Africa In April Cultural Awareness Festival, Inc., thirty years ago with her husband, Dr. David L. Acey, Sr.; she currently serves as associate director of the nonprofit organization, which sponsors year-round activities and the Africa In April Cultural Awareness Festival that celebrates the arts, history, culture, and the diversity of the African Diaspora; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to accolades for her exemplary public service and potent advocacy, Mrs. Acey has been recognized by the *Tri-State Defender* as a Woman of

Excellence, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., as Beta Epsilon Omega Soror of the Year, Southeastern Humanitarian Soror of the Year, and International World Community Soror, The National Sorority of Phi Delta Kappa, Inc., as Southeastern Soror of the Year, and as one of the Outstanding Fifty Women of Memphis and Shelby County; she has received the NAACP Lifetime Achievement award, the 100 Black Women Legacy Leadership award, the Tennessee Education Association's Susan B. Anthony Award, the National Civil Rights Living Legend honorific, and the Center City Commission's Vision honor for Africa In April; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Acey earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Humanities from LeMoyne-Owen College and holds a master's degree in special education from the University of Memphis; she has completed certification in educational administration and ninety hours of doctoral studies; and

WHEREAS, she is an active member of Mt. Vernon Baptist Church-Westwood, which has honored her with its Community Service award; and

WHEREAS, Yvonne B. Acey is being honored by her peers on Legacy Sunday, April 30, 2017, and we wish to add our appreciation and approbation of this distinguished educator; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED TENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor Yvonne B. Acey upon her outstanding career in education, commend her humanity and vision in founding the Africa In April Cultural Awareness Festival, Inc., and wish her all the best in her future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.